

## Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #38

### 20 March 2024

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#### Biography: Leo Bott



Leo Bott was a capable electrical engineer who was involved in introducing new communications technology across Australia. He supervised the automation of the Perth Telephone Exchange in 1914 (only the second automated exchange in Australia after Geelong) and supported the communications links introduced for the Trans Australia Railway Line.

Growing up in South Australia he moved with his family to Western Australia. In mid-1908, he joined the Commonwealth Posts and Telegraph Department as a Junior Assistant

Engineer and by 1912 was promoted to Draughtsman in the Electrical Engineers Branch. In 1913 he passed the qualification examination to be employed as an Assistant Engineer.

Leo was promoted to Assistant Superintending Engineer Western Australia in 1927. He moved to Melbourne in January 1936 to take up the role of Assistant Superintending Engineer Victoria. He was promoted to Superintending Engineer South Australia in July 1937 before moving back to Western Australia as Superintending Engineer Western Australia in 1940.

He was an excellent sportsman playing fourteen cricket matches between 1912 and 1925 representing Western Australia. In 1924 he captained Western Australia in a cricket match against an English eleven. He also became a State Selector.

Leo joined the Institute of (IPA) Public Affairs and became a Member of the South Australia IPA Council. By 1938 he was IPA SA Deputy Chairman and by 1940 IPA SA Chairman. In 1940, Leon was awarded an IPA Medal in recognition of his services to the Institute.

He was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1953.

Leo died on August 21, 1968, at Mount Lawley, Perth, aged 79. For the detailed biography, please refer to the Engineering Heritage WA website:

[Leo Cecil Bott - Engineering Heritage Western Australia \(mywikis.wiki\)](https://mywikis.wiki/Leo_Cecil_Bott_-_Engineering_Heritage_Western_Australia)

(From Chris Fitzhardinge)

## **Engineering Heritage Australia's History**

Support for engineering heritage first developed in the mid-1970s with some concerned engineers forming 'engineering relics committees'. In the late 1970s it was decided to form a national committee with the first meeting in September 1979. There is an article by Professor Ray Whitmore celebrating the twenty-year anniversary in the October 1999 Newsletter (refer [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/EHA\\_Newsletter](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/EHA_Newsletter)).

As EHA will soon be celebrating fifty years since its formation, it is time to record our history so that current members can appreciate past achievements and learn from the efforts of our earlier volunteers. It is not intended to publish a book, but there is a need to add information to our website which tells the story of EHA's achievements, its changing priorities and to recognise those individuals who have contributed enormous hours of volunteer time in support of Australia's engineering heritage.

Keith Baker, author of the 2013 book titled 'A Century of Canberra Engineering' and past Chair of EHA, has agreed to be the editor of material telling the story of the first fifty years of EHA. It is intended to start work on recording EHA's history in 2024 with work being completed before 2029.

However, we need your help. We need minutes of past EHA meetings all the way back to the first meeting in September 1979. A search will be made of Engineers Australia's records, but it is unlikely that minutes and other papers of interest are to be found in the Canberra office. Earlier members may still have files/paper records from the time that they were active in EHA. (Keith has two decades of EHA minutes from 1996 but they have been annotated during meetings and clean copies would be preferable for archival scanning)

If you have old EHA records, we want to hear from you via email at [heritage.engineersaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:heritage.engineersaustralia@gmail.com). Records can be scanned and loaded to a new EHA 'Google drive'; handed over to a member of the EHA Committee; or mailed to me at 4A York Street, South Perth WA 6151.

(By Mike Taylor – EHA)

## EHA Website Update

The February edition of the EHA Bulletin included an article advising that the EHA website at [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Main_Page) includes a map showing the location of 268 markers around Australia. This seems to have been a great success as Google Maps reports that as of 11 March, the map has been viewed nearly 600 times since it was first published on 17 January 2024.

If when you visit any of our EHRP markers you can improve the location information or provide better images for the website, please send this information to the EHRP Committee contact Gregg Klopp at [Gregg.Klopp@robertbird.com.au](mailto:Gregg.Klopp@robertbird.com.au). Alternatively, it can be sent to an EHA email address at [heritage.engineersaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:heritage.engineersaustralia@gmail.com).

Other activity on the EHA Website includes:

- Bill Phippen and Gregg Klopp have been adding Items of Engineering Interest to [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Items\\_of\\_Interest](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Items_of_Interest);
- Bill Phippen has transferred Sydney's Transport revolution from the NSW website to [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Sydney%27s\\_Transport\\_Revolution](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Sydney%27s_Transport_Revolution);
- Bill Phippen and Gregg Klopp have been adding Biographies to <https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Biographies>;
- format for an Oral History Table has been developed at [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Oral\\_History\\_Program](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Oral_History_Program) and Bill has been adding NSW oral history records.
- Information on EHA and the website has been added to [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Engineering\\_Heritage\\_Australia>About](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Engineering_Heritage_Australia>About)

(By Mike Taylor – EHA)

## Vicotria Pass - State Heritage Register

We have been notified that Victoria Pass and Berghofers Pass in the Blue Mountains have been approved by the Minister to be included on the State Heritage Register, which is another good step forward for engineering heritage.

"I advise that the Minister for Heritage has, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of NSW, directed the listing of the above-mentioned heritage item on the State Heritage Register (SHR). The listing, a copy of which is attached, was published on 8 March 2024 in NSW Government Gazette No. 85.

The item was listed due to its heritage significance to the people of the state of New South Wales. You can view the details of the item, including the statement of significance, on the State Heritage Inventory:

<https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5051826>

Our Heritage NSW contact thanked me for the photos of the pass that EHS was able to supply for their submission.

Victoria Pass is already on the EHRP, so one less submission we need to make to have ALL our EHRP items on the State Heritage Register.

(By Frank Johnson- EHS)

## South Yarra Water Works Company (1854 - 1863) – upcoming Engineering History talk on Thursday, 18 April 2024 @ 5:30 - 7.00 pm (Hybrid event)

An upcoming Engineering History talk by Ken McInnes who will be exploring the history, the entrepreneurs, the engineers, the operations, the expansion and the demise of the short lived South Yarra Water Works Company (1854 – 1863).

This talk will provide a fascinating narrative for all who have an interest in the history of Victoria.

More details and bookings at:

< <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/south-yarra-water-works-company-1854-1863/> >

Other EHV talks/activities scheduled for this year:

- Saturday 15 June 2024, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.  
Open Day at PowerWorks,  
**"Celebration of the centenary of power transmission between Yallourn and Melbourne".**  
In collaboration with Energy Australia.

- Thursday 20 June 2024, 6.00 pm.  
***"Celebrating 100th Anniversary of when the first power was transmitted by 132,000 voltage power lines from Yallourn"***  
at Engineers Australia, 600 Bourke Street
- Thursday 15 August 2024, 5:30 – 7.00pm.  
***Topic and speaker to be confirmed***  
At Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street.
- Thursday 17 October 2024, 5:30 – 7.00pm.  
***Topic and speaker to be confirmed***  
At Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett Street.
- Thursday 24 October - Friday 25 October 2024  
***Australian Engineering Heritage Conference - AEHC 2024***  
Adelaide. Engineers Australia rooms, Sir Robert Chapman Theatre

(From Ken McInnes- EHV)

## **Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering (AAMME) First Bulletin 03/2024**

Find attached to this bulletin, the March edition of the AAMME Bulletin for 2024.

(From Bill Phippen- EHS)

### ***Contributions needed***

*Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at [fshawash@yahoo.com](mailto:fshawash@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.*

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## BULLETIN 03/2024

### Introduction

This bulletin provides an update, at irregular intervals, on the AAMME operations between 14 Feb - 07 Mar 2024.

### Mission

Promote the collection of significant material of RAE Corps History and Heritage (H2), and implement best practice in the management, preservation, and display of that H2 IOT educate Sappers, and contribute towards esprit de corps, future doctrine and materiel development. Also, enhance broader awareness of the RAE Corps achievements.

### Theme

- 160 (+) yrs of Bridging the Gap.
- RAE Corps Band.
- The Gabion Wall.

### Recent Worthy Achievements

With assistance from SME TSW, the PMV display has been enhanced with the fitting of a new spare, and driver's side, wheel; the front passenger wheel was blown off by an IED in AFG.

New Dexion shelving to improve the Curators wksp storage capability has been installed.

The AAMME 5 yr Strategic Plan has been amended to better reflect the much earlier than expected achievements of 2023 and the beginning of 2024.

The AAMME staff supported a highly successful SME Family Day, Sat 02 Mar 2024.

AAMME staff and volunteers have successfully completed their Mandatory trg 2024.

### Volunteering

If you're interested, or know someone interested, in joining us as a volunteer, please email SGT Gregory Black via our mailbox.

### PTE Nand RACT - SME TSW



### Visitors

Many MIL and CIV personnel, incl families and friends, continue to visit the AAMME, regularly, including:

- SME CO, ADJT & RSM.
- SME staff & students.
- CAG-ER (MPD).
- SEG & BGIS.
- Waverley College Cadets.
- Sydney Fire & Rescue.
- 8 BDE SERCAT 7 pers.

### Training/Courses/Activities

Groups continue to utilise the facilities within the AAMME incl:

- SME & SOER EDDs.
- SME ROBC & IETs.
- AAMME Staff & Vols FPA trg.
- 5 CSSB SERCAT 7 pers PME.
- Australian Military Bank, DEFBANK, RSL, and DFMS.

### Malaysian Army CPL Joshua training with EDD Stevie



[aamme.mailbox@defence.gov.au](mailto:aamme.mailbox@defence.gov.au)

### Curator

A significant amount of planning and work was conducted to ensure exciting interactive activities were provided in support the SME Family Day on 02 Mar 2024.

### Children's (and some adults) Family Day Activity



The wet weather programme was enacted, and many of the stalls and activities were brought inside the AAMME. The MGB and EDDs proved very popular, as was the BBQ, and FREE ice cream. Roll on 2025.

### Plan for the next quarter

Relocate MV10, and prep Main Exhibition Area for LRSS IHSV.

AAMME staff visit the Repository, Bandiana NLT Apr.

Establish a more permanent children's activity area.

Continue process to secure a MK3 (sandy coloured) Husky.

Organise a visit to 6 ESR AACAP 24 Operations IOT capture pics, interviews, material etc with a view to enhancing RAE Corps history and establishing a more permanent AACAP display.

Review the AAMME Collection, Disaster, and Succession Plans.

Promote the continuing successes and achievements of the AAMME/AAHU/RAE Corps.

See more AAMME pictures on the SME Facebook site.

By Museum Manager: MAJ Robert Wallace ([robert.wallace2@defence.gov.au](mailto:robert.wallace2@defence.gov.au)) – 07 Mar 2024